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For Immediate Release

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External Affairs

Fall Board Meeting Covers Strategic Program Issues And Total System Performance Assessment

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board has scheduled its fall meeting for October 17-18, 1995, in Arlington, Virginia. **(Please note: In the event of a general government shutdown, the Board will decide on October 10, 1995, whether or not to cancel the meeting. In the event of a shutdown, please call (703) 235-4473 on October 10 for the announcement.)** The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Arlington Renaissance Hotel, 950 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203; (Tel) 703-528-6000; (Fax) 703-528-4386. To receive the government rate, you must reserve your accommodations at the hotel by September 25, 1995, and mention the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting. The meeting will begin at 8:30 A.M. on both days.

On Tuesday, October 17, discussion will focus on strategic issues affecting the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM). Dr. Daniel Dreyfus, director of OCRWM, has been invited to discuss recent developments in the OCRWM program, and congressional staff members have been invited to review the status of pending nuclear waste legislation. Other presentations will be made on the scientific and construction progress in the exploratory studies facility at Yucca Mountain, Nevada; the Department of Energy's (DOE) emerging waste isolation strategy; the National Academy of Sciences report on the technical bases for Yucca Mountain standards; and DOE reactions to the NAS report. The Electric Power Research Institute also has been invited to provide an analysis of different proposed standards. The day will end with a round-table discussion of these strategic issues and their implications for the high-level nuclear waste program.

Wednesday will be devoted to performance assessment, including a detailed look at Total System Performance Assessment-1995 for the Yucca Mountain site. Additional presentations and a panel discussion on making the best use of performance assessment will conclude the day's activities. Representatives of the DOE, its contractors, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories have been invited to participate.

As usual, time will be provided for public comment and questions, and to ensure that everyone wishing to speak is provided time to do so, the Board encourages those who have comments to sign the *Public Comment Register*, which will be located at the sign-in table. Depending on the number of people wishing to speak, a speaking time limit may have to be set on the length of individual remarks. However, written comments of any length may be submitted for the record.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was created by Congress in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken

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by the DOE in its program to manage the disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste. In that same legislation, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for its suitability as a potential location for a permanent repository for the disposal of that waste.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available on computer disk or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning December 15, 1995. For further information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (Tel) 703-235-4473; (Fax) 703-235-4495.

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